Above: engraving by Venturini (1685) with a view of the so-called Rotunda of the Cypresses located in the lower section of the garden. · Below: centuries old cypresses in the Rotunda.

Cardinal Alessandro d'Este who had it crowned with the d'Este eagle, after removing the statue of Diana. Cardinal Alessando is also responsible for the « tempietto » which protects the organ inserted into the central niche and he also had the statues of Apollo and Orpheus placed on either side. Claude Venard is credited with having built the water organ based upon models from Antiquity known during the Renaissance through the descriptions of Vitruvius and Hero of Alexandria. However, the Villa d'Este organ was quite a wonder in itself since, compared to the antique models, it was highly perfected and it was also wholly autonomous. The operating principle is very simple: water powerfully rushing into a cavity forced air out of the organ pipes while another water-driven device simultaneously moved the keys whereby generating a harmonious sound preceded by a trumpet call. The Tiburtine chronicles